

ROCHESTER REVIEW

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5
MAY 2009

Rochester Turns 175!

On April 28, Rochester celebrated its 175th birthday. Visit the site below to see an illustrated timeline of Rochester's history. You can find old photos, maps, line art, and quick biographies of some of Rochester's famous names to use with your students.

→ <http://www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/>

You can also visit the Monroe County Library's Rochester History site which is also rich in resources:

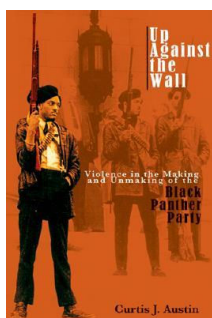
→ <http://www2.libraryweb.org/index.asp?orgid=92>

Global Gear-Up

The Global Gear-Up program is aimed at students entering grade 9 who are considering participation in AP World History or who are simply interested in applying themselves in a challenging academic environment. This summer enrichment program is open to 40 students and will be held at Edison Campus from July 6-28th, 2009. Participants will obtain the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind required for success in advanced social studies coursework. The deadline to apply for a teaching position in the Global Gear-Up program, as well as the regular RCSD Summer School program, is this Friday, May 8.

Collegial Book Circle

A collegial book circle centering around the book *Up Against the Wall: Violence in the Making and Unmaking of the Black Panther Party* by Curtis J. Austin will have its first meeting on May 20.



Sessions will be a combination of discussion of the book and the Black Panthers as well as exploring the book's application in the classroom. Contact Stefan Cohen for more information.

"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."

TEACHING AS HISTORIANS

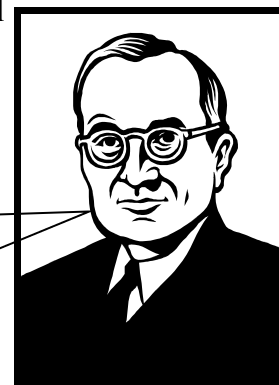


The Teaching American History Grant's *Teaching as Historians* program will be hosting a Summer Institute from July 13 through July 17. The institute will focus on 19th Century Rochester history. Sessions will run from 1:00 - 5:00 PM each day. Participants will hear from local historians, visit historic sites like Mt. Hope Cemetery and the Susan B. Anthony House, and even take a ride on the Erie Canal. Save the date now, seats are limited. If you would like to be a part of this program, contact Steve LaMorte (stephen.lamorte@rcsdk12.org)

Summer AP Institute

Advanced Placement training institutes will be held this summer. The series will include workshops on how to vertically prepare students for college level rigor at all levels. RCSD teachers may attend these institutes free of charge. Training for AP Economics (Micro) and AP World History, will take place from August 17th through the 21st. AP American Government and Politics will be offered August 24-27th.

Information about how to register will be available soon.



Harry Truman
May 8, 1884 - December 26, 1972



From the Director...

Warm weather brings the excitement and promise of summer around the corner and competes with our students' attention. Just when we need our students to buckle down and begin to review for assessments, we are competing with mother nature for their time and energy. This month I want to take a moment to thank all of you in advance for the dedication and hard work you will be putting in this month and next to assure that every Rochester student is prepared for final examinations. An order of 2,000 Global History & Geography Review books was placed and these will be disseminated soon to schools on behalf of the Department of Teaching and Learning. We need to make every effort to improve the achievement of all students in the area of Global History and Geography. In the coming years, we will be analyzing the results from examinations closely to determine the topics and skills in which our students perform well and those we need to refine.

Assessments can provide us valuable data about our students and help us to make strategic instructional decisions. Last year, central collection of data from the Global History and Geography and United States History Regents Examinations was conducted as a pilot program. This year, we will collect data centrally for all students who are taking the Global History and Geography Regents. In an effort to gather data to improve student performance and determine our world history program effectiveness, the data will be analyzed centrally and used to improve program performance. Centrally prepared scanning sheets will be developed and disseminated to schools one week prior to the Regents examination. Teachers and testing coordinators will be provided with detailed directions regarding the scan sheets to assure a smooth process.

Our Teaching American History Grant will conclude our 2009 speaker session on May 11th with Dr. Jamie Spiller presenting on Environmental History in the United States. All are welcome to join us for this event at the Memorial Art Gallery from 4-6 p.m. Please mark your calendars for our summer institute July 13-17th from 1-5 p.m. daily. Historians will present on race, gender, and economics in 19th century Rochester as we visit points of interest and significance to our local history. What a great way to Celebrate Rochester's 175th Birthday!

Social Studies Best Practices

Using Technology in the Classroom

Technology, technology, technology! We all know that technology is great, but even if you put a computer in front of every student, that act alone will not necessarily increase student success and understanding. We've got to use technology in innovative ways to make an impact. Here are some ideas:

The Virtual Classroom: Bring class information and materials to the internet. There are tons of free places for teachers to set up their own web pages such as Wikispaces (www.wikispaces.com) and Google Sites (www.google.com/sites). You can remind students of class assignments, post materials, and have discussion pages.

Podcasts: Creating videos and podcasts are great ways for students to show off their knowledge and understanding. Take a look here for a quick guide: <http://learninginhand.com/podcasting/create.html>

Exchanging Culture: Help your students expand their cultural horizons through the use of technology:

- Visit sites from other countries.
- Set up a pen-pal system between your class and another class across the country or the world.
- Borrow a few of your school's digital cameras or camcorders and get your students to produce a slideshow or documentary about their own personal culture.
- Google it! You can now see real-time pictures and video of places all over the country and world using Google Earth and Google Maps.

The entire next page of this newsletter is devoted to some great sites you can visit and use to expand your use of technology in your classroom.





PowerMediaPlus is an amazing site for videos, images, and audio clips. You can download clips, reate online tests, quizzes and assignments and even have the results e-mailed directly to you! Access to this resource is completely free, but you must register with a school-specific pass-code. Pass-codes for teachers and students are attached to the newsletter.

- www.powermediaplus.com

Global School Net: Global School Net's mission is to support 21st century learning. Their goal is to engage teachers and students in meaningful project learning exchanges with people around the world to develop literacy and communication skills, foster teamwork and collaboration, encourage workforce preparedness and create multi-cultural understanding. Global SchoolNet prepares youth for full participation as productive and effective citizens in an increasing global economy

- <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/index.cfm>

Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants: An article about the digital divide that exists in our current culture. A very interesting article.

- <http://www.marcprensky.com/writing/Prensky%20-%20Digital%20Natives,%20Digital%20Immigrants%20-%20Part1.pdf>

New Path Learning: NewPath Learning was founded in 2006 with the express mission of developing innovative, interactive print materials for comprehensive assessment preparation and review of the most current academic standards. NewPath's products are developed by teachers using research-based principles and are classroom tested. There is a charge for use of this site, but a 14 day free trial is available.

- www.newpathlearning.com

Authentic History Center: The Authentic History Center is comprised of artifacts and sounds from American popular culture. It was created to teach that the everyday objects in society have authentic historical value and reflect the social consciousness of the era that produced them.

- <http://authentichistory.com/>

Center for Civic Education: The Center for Civic Education has a variety of programs, publications, and resources to offer teachers. Find out more by clicking below.

- <http://www.civiced.org/>

The Center for Teaching History With Technology: This center is a wonderful resource for all things related to teaching with technology.

- <http://www.thwt.org/>

New York State Education Department Champlain-Hudson-Fulton Commemoration

Online Resource: Come celebrate the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's and Henry Hudson's voyages of discovery and the 200th anniversary of the launching of Robert Fulton's Clermont. Explore 10 standards-based, interdisciplinary elementary, middle and commencement level instructional modules and 3 scholarly overviews that focus on the broad historical themes of encounters between peoples, global trade, and commerce.

- <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/chf/chf.html>

2009 New York Statewide Summer Reading

Program: To commemorate the New York State Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, the New York State Library, in partnership with the New York Library Association's Youth Services Section and the School Library Media Section, has created four selected reading lists that celebrate the history, culture, and diversity of New York State.

- <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/readlist.htm>



FEATURED TEACHER

Emma Yatteau

School: Wilson Foundation

Years in District: 1

Subjects Currently Teaching: 8th Grade U.S. History

Favorite Social Studies Topics: I know that this is a cop out answer, but for the most part I really do enjoy all contents in the Social Sciences, from middle school to high school and beyond. I love studying people and cultures and how we evolved due to geography, events, and technology. However, I do like to focus more on people and social movements for peace and positive change rather than wars.

Why does Social Studies Rock? Why does Social Studies rock you ask? For me, it rocks because of the why. Why are we studying a particular topic? How does it explain what happened before, after, and now? How do we know where we are going if we don't know where we've been? It also contains all the other subjects because history helps Math, English, Science, and the world make more sense. Calculus could be introduced with a lesson on Newton; Shakespeare is understood when placed in his time; genetics can be started with introducing Mendel. Social Studies is the all-inclusive, all-encompassing subject no matter how refined the palate.

Proud Teaching Moment: One of my proudest teaching moments is when my students tell me "I do too much." One day when the students were working, one of my kids told me, "Miss, why do you push us so much! You're always like you can do this work and then you have us do it! You do too much!" I laughed and thanked them, and then had them continue their work! I also love when my students make connections with previous topics to current ones or current times.

About Emma... When I'm not at school or planning or thinking about school, I love to travel, play with my Shih Tzus, hang out with family and friends, walk through Highland Park and Mt. Hope Cemetery, or hit up my favorite restaurant Salena's. One of my goals is to go on every continent and visit over 100 countries. Currently, I have trekked through four continents and fifteen countries.



Do you know a teacher who should be recognized for their achievements? Is there someone in your building who is caring, witty, good-looking, and of course, passionate about Social Studies? Do you just want to toot your own horn? If you answered yes to any of these questions, contact Steve LaMorte and nominate someone to be our next featured teacher!

Important Dates

Monday, May 11

- Environmental Politics and Culture in Modern American History - Dr. James Spiller.

Monday, May 18

- Social Studies Council
- World Religions Seminar

Thursday, May 21

- Picturing America Lesson Sharing

July 8-9 (1:00-4:30 PM)

- Pre-AP: Setting the Cornerstone

July 13-17 (1-5 p.m.)

- TAH Summer Institute

July 20-21 (1:00-4:30 PM)

- Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical teams in Social Studies

July 22-23 (1:00-4:30 PM)

- Pre-AP: Advanced Topics for Vertical teams in SS- Developing Reading Habits

July 27-28 (1:00-4:30 PM)

- Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies- SS, ELA, Humanities: Argumentation and the Writing Process

August 17-21

- AP Economics- Micro
- AP World History

August 24-27

- AP American Government and Politics

Global History Regents

Scoring sheets for the June administration of the Global History & Geography Regents will be collected centrally for analysis. This practice will give us a better idea of how best to promote our students' success in the future.